

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 30, 2001 LB 827

what do you intend to be, or what do you think will be the permanent means of financing this effort?

SENATOR BROWN: Senator Beutler, considering the expanse of area in communities we're talking about in Nebraska, this is intended to be an opportunity for those communities that have a particular need that could be furthered in the telecommunications area, being able to access a pot of money, however modest it is, and match it with their own money so that they can get something done in their particular community. We long ago, I think this Legislature decided not to take the Iowa approach and try to state-fund the entire concept of either distance learning or advanced telecommunications. And I do have some articles recently from Iowa that perhaps I should share at some point, but they're being asked this year to come up with 10.-some million dollars just for maintenance on their system, and they're having...they're having great difficulties with maintaining their system. It's not working properly. Now, so what I'm saying is we have to rely upon a combination of the private sector and the...the improving technologies in the wireless and satellite area to serve Nebraska. This will be a supplement, this will be a help. This might even help somebody get in a wireless system. And I'll put on my light and...and continue the discussion if I'm using too much of your time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It...it seems to me that if in fact we need to have some other source of funding, that that means that you're going to need to come back to us with a bill that really addresses itself exclusively...

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...to the funding of this fund, and the fund, and everything about it. That's why, in part, I'm surprised that this is part of this bill. Why wouldn't it make sense to take this Enhancement Fund concept out of this bill and simply deal with it head-on next year with a separate bill and deal with the Enhancement Fund in all its aspects, because you are going to need some other funding source for this?